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## **Sen. Brown introduces legislation to protect display of historic documents**

**LANSING** – Citing numerous recent court challenges and rulings, state Senator Cameron S. Brown, R-Fawn River Township, announced a legislative package to protect the display of historic documents that include religious reference.

“It is surprising that we find ourselves having to defend the practice of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance or placing the Ten Commandments in our Capitol building but rulings of some courts have recently challenged this free expression,” Brown said.

Recent high profile court cases have challenged the presence of many traditional and historic documents, pledges and mottos in schools, court rooms and other public buildings. Just this week, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to consider the legality of a Ten Commandments monument on display in the Texas Capitol building.

Brown’s legislation would affirm in Michigan statute the lawful and permissive public reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and the public display of documents such as the Ten Commandments and the national motto ‘In God We Trust.’ It would also extend the same lawful use of these documents and motto in public classroom instruction.

“Nothing we can ever do in the Legislature will have any real impact on improving the quality of our life, if we deny the very heritage that has made our nation a beacon of liberty,” Brown said. “If we can’t convey to our young people an appreciation that our legal system is rooted in the Ten Commandments, then we are denying the very basis of our laws. In light of the confusion recent court rulings have created in the public mind, this legislation helps bring clarity to the law and a healthy respect for our heritage.”

Brown’s legislation will be introduced in the Senate over the next two weeks. State Rep. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, has introduced similar legislation in the Michigan House of Representatives.

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